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NEWS RELEASE

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WILD CARD 2 JACKPOT WINNERS

BISMARCK - Two lucky women will sleep more easily tonight, as they have one less worry; money. Gail Barden and Rachel Horning, both of Zap, won the state's largest Wild Card 2 jackpot to date, sharing over a half-million dollars.

The women, who have been friends for eight years, play all four Lottery games. They spend about \$36 between them each month on tickets for the Wednesday and Saturday draws. They buy tickets once a month at the Farmers Union Oil store in Beulah, alternating who goes out to buy them. Rachel said they have only won small amounts before. This time, Lady Luck found them.

Gail, who runs "T & G Grocery and Grill" with her husband Terry, said she usually checks their numbers in the newspaper over breakfast, but this morning she didn't have time so she took the paper to work. Gail said she joked with customers that she might be a millionaire and didn't know it. Terry was just pulling up outside the store when Gail checked the paper and saw Wild Card 2 had her lucky card, the Queen of Hearts. She checked the numbers twice before it sank in, then she made Terry drive her straight to Beulah to check the ticket. Farmers Union store manager Joey Boger said when Gail found out she had won the jackpot of \$588,954, she was "jumping up and down, screaming and yelling." Gail called Rachel, who thought her friend was pulling her leg.

When she was finally convinced they had won, Rachel, who works at the Union State Bank in Zap, called her husband Steve on his cell phone. Coincidentally, he was at a dealership looking at used 4 wheelers for their ranch. He took a bit of convincing she had really won, but Rachel said then he "bought her a new 4-wheeler to celebrate." It was Rachel's birthday on Tuesday.

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After taxes, each will take home a little over \$204,000. Gail said she would keep working because they had a store to run. Rachel said she, too, would keep working, commenting "The bank wouldn't let me leave today until I promised I would come back to work." Both women also just moved into new homes. They plan to use their share of the prize money to pay off their mortgages and then have a little fun. And Farmer's Union Oil will receive a retailer bonus check of \$2,000 for selling the jackpot ticket.

Since the North Dakota Lottery launched Wild Card 2 in September 2004, total sales have reached \$3,532,622 and the lottery has paid out prizes totaling \$1,971,823. Four of the last five jackpots, worth more than \$1.4 million, were won here. Wild Card 2 is played in four states -- North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota and Idaho.

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